

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY TOKYO
INFO ALL EAST ASIAN AND PACIFIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 183329

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E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS:PGOV, EGEN, JA, US

SUBJECT: WEEKLY STATUS REPORT - JAPAN AUGUST 4, 1977

TO: EA - MR. HOLBROOKE

FROM: EA/J - NICHOLAS PLATT

1. DELAY IN TACHIKAWA AFB RETURN

WE ASKED EMBASSY'S VIEWS LAST WEEK ON AF REQUEST FOR A THREE-YEAR DELAY IN RETURN OF TACHIKAWA AFB, SCHEDULED FOR THIS FALL. TACHIKAWA, LOCATED IN URBAN TOKYO, IS NO LONGER USED FOR USAF FLIGHT OPERATIONS BUT CONTAINS A SUBSTANTIAL NUMBER OF DEPENDENT HOUSING UNITS WHICH AF DESPERATELY NEEDS. EMBASSY RESPONDED THAT SUCH A DELAY MIGHT: 1) CREATE
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POLITICAL PROBLEMS IN VIEW OF OUR PRIOR RELEASE COMMITMENT;
2) COMPLICATE OUR EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE COST-SHARING ARRANGEMENTS; 3) BRING INTO QUESTION OUR PLANNING CAPABILITY TO ANTICIPATE FUTURE NEEDS. EMBASSY EMPHASIZED NEED TO TAKE LOW-KEY APPROACH BEFORE ANY FORMAL DISCUSSION. WE HAVE ADVISED DOD THAT WE SHARE EMBASSY'S VIEWS AND CONCERNS. WE WILL BE CONSULTING WITH THEM SHORTLY ON WHERE TO GO FROM

HERE.

2. P-3C PROCUREMENT (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE)

PROCUREMENT OF THE P-3C, STALLED BECAUSE OF THE LOCKHEED SCANDAL AND GOJ BUDGETARY PROBLEMS, MAY BE UNDERWAY AGAIN. JDA CHIEF MIHARA ANNOUNCED AUGUST 2 THAT THE JDA WOULD MAKE A TENTATIVE SELECTION OF THE P-3C AS THE NEW JAPANESE ASW AIRCRAFT. NEWSPAPER ACCOUNTS STATED FURTHER THAT A JDA DECISION IS EXPECTED BY AUGUST 10 WHETHER TO INCLUDE THE P-3C IN THE JFY 1978 BUDGET. THE JDA IS REPORTEDLY CONSIDERING PROCUREMENT OF 40 P-3'S OVER A FIVE-YEAR PERIOD BEGINNING IN JFY 1979 UNDER LICENSE PRODUCTION ARRANGEMENTS. COMMENT: WE HAVE HAD MANY FALSE ALARMS REGARDING A P-3C DECISION AND ARE AWAITING CONFIRMATION OF THESE REPORTS.

3. MIHARA VISIT SET (CONFIDENTIAL)

WE NOW HAVE DATES FOR THE VISIT OF JDA CHIEF ASAO MIHARA WHO HAS BEEN INVITED FOR ANNUAL CONSULTATIONS BY SECDEF HAROLD BROWN. TENTATIVELY, MIHARA WILL BE IN WASHINGTON SEPTEMBER 12 AND 13 AFTER WHICH HE WILL DEPART ON A TOUR OF US MILITARY FACILITIES. TENTATIVE PLANS HAVE HIM SEEING SECDEF, SECSTATE, THE NSC ADVISOR AND OTHER SENIOR CONFIDENTIAL

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OFFICIALS.

4. SUBCABINET TALKS (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE)

MESSRS. COOPER, BERGSTEN, HEGINBOTHAM, ET.AL., ARE SCHEDULED TO MEET EARLY IN THE WEEK OF AUGUST 8 TO FOCUS ON PREPARATIONS FOR THE SUBCABINET TALKS. WE HOPE THAT WE WILL BE ABLE TO TRANSMIT TO THE JAPANESE SOON OUR PAPERS ON THE AGENDA TOPICS WE WISH TO COVER AS WELL AS BEGIN TO FIRM UP PREPARATIONS FOR THE VISIT.

5. UNITED NATIONS UNIVERSITY (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE)

AFTER THE JOINT US-JAPAN YOUTH ORCHESTRA CONCERT LAST NIGHT, I PASSED AMBASSADOR TOGO YOUR SUGGESTION THAT HE CALL SENATOR INOUE TO EXPRESS STRONG INTEREST IN THE UNU CONTRIBUTION. WHEN TOGO CALLED THIS MORNING, INOUE TOLD HIM THAT THE BILL WOULD PROBABLY PASS THE SENATE FLOOR THIS EVENING (AUGUST 4) MINUS THE UNU CONTRIBUTION. INOUE EXPRESSED THE HOPE TO TOGO THAT SENATE CONFEREES WOULD WITHDRAW THEIR OPPOSITION IF HOUSE PROPONENTS HELD FIRM IN SUPPORT OF THE CONTRIBUTION WHEN THE BILL CAME TO

CONFERENCE IN SEPTEMBER. IN THE MEANTIME, I HAVE ALSO
ASKED MIKE ARMACOST TO FOLLOW UP AND MAKE SURE THE VICE
PRESIDENT CALLS INOUYE TO REITERATE HIS SUPPORT FOR THE
CONTRIBUTION. CHRISTOPHER

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